

January 14, 2005

Mr. Jerald S. Holm  
Framatome ANP, Inc.  
3315 Old Forest Road  
P.O. Box 10935  
Lynchburg, VA 24506-0935

Dear Mr. Holm:

Thank you for the letter of December 2, 2004, informing us of Framatome ANP's plans to pursue certification of the EPR evolutionary reactor design under Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 52. Framatome ANP's letter states that details regarding pre-application review plans will be provided in February 2005, and that topical reports will be submitted for staff review beginning in February 2006. Framatome ANP anticipates that this work will support a design certification application in 2008. This information will help the NRC staff to effectively plan and budget for these review efforts.

The Commission's policy statement regarding regulation of advanced nuclear power plants (51 FR 24643) encourages early interaction between vendors and the NRC to identify how proposed activities will influence regulatory requirements. Consistent with the policy statement, your pre-application plans should facilitate understanding of how the characteristics of the EPR differ significantly from current light water reactors, including any measures used to provide enhanced margins of safety and simplified or other innovative means to accomplish safety functions. The NRC staff will be particularly interested in any regulatory issues which could lead to the need for Commission policy decisions, or technical issues unique to the EPR design that could require extensive effort and long lead time to resolve.

In FY 2005, we expect to be able to support meetings to discuss pre-application planning and to familiarize the staff with the EPR design; no extensive technical review effort is expected this fiscal year. The level of effort we will be able to support in the future will be determined as the NRC considers EPR activities along with other agency priorities as resources are allocated in future budgets. Within the new reactor program, priority will be given to activities clearly aligned with a domestic partner. Therefore, any information you can provide regarding domestic interest in the EPR design will also be helpful in our budget planning.

The NRC project number for the EPR pre-application effort is 733. Placing this number on your correspondence to us on this topic will ensure it is appropriately entered in the agency's electronic document management system, ADAMS.

J. Holm

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If you have questions or comments regarding this letter, please contact Joe Williams at (301) 415-1470 or [jfw1@nrc.gov](mailto:jfw1@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,

***/RA/***

William D. Beckner, Program Director  
New, Research and Test Reactors Program  
Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Project No. 733

cc: See next page

J. Holm

- 2 -

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cc: See next page

Distribution:

Hard Copy  
RNRP Rdg.  
JWilliams  
LDudes  
WBeckner

E-Mail  
JDyer/RBorchardt  
DMatthews/FGillespie (RidsNrrDrip)  
FEltawila  
JDanna

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OFFICE	PM:RNRP	SC:RNRP	PD:RNRP
NAME	JWilliams	LDudes	WBeckner
DATE	1/11/2005	1/13/2005	1/13/2005

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cc:

Mr. David Lochbaum, Nuclear Safety  
Engineer  
Union of Concerned Scientists  
1707 H Street, NW., Suite 600  
Washington, DC 20006-3919

Mr. Paul Gunter  
Nuclear Information & Resource Service  
1424 16th Street, NW, Suite 404  
Washington, DC 20036

Mr. James Riccio  
Greenpeace  
702 H Street, Suite 300  
Washington, DC 20001

Mr. Adrian Heymer  
Nuclear Energy Institute  
Suite 400  
1776 I Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20006-3708

Mr. Thomas P. Miller  
U.S. Dept. of Energy, NE-20, Rm. A286  
Headquarters - Germantown  
19901 Germantown Road  
Germantown, MD 20874-1290

Mr. Paul Leventhal  
Nuclear Control Institute  
1000 Connecticut Avenue, NW  
Suite 410  
Washington, DC 20036

Dr. Jack W. Roe  
Vice President  
Advanced Technologies & Laboratories  
International, Inc.  
20010 Century Boulevard, Suite 500  
Germantown, MD 20874

Mr. Brendan Hoffman  
Research Associate on Nuclear Energy  
and Environmental Program  
215 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20003

Mr. Jerald S. Holm  
Framatome ANP, Inc.  
3315 Old Forest Road  
P.O. Box 10935  
Lynchburg, VA 24506-0935

Mr. Tom Clements  
6703 Gude Avenue  
Takoma Park, MD 20912

Ms. Patricia Campbell  
Winston & Strawn  
1400 L Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20005

J. Alan Beard  
GE Nuclear Energy  
13113 Chestnut Oak Drive  
Darnestown, MD 20878-3554

Mr. Charles Brinkman, Director  
Washington Operations  
Westinghouse Electric Company  
12300 Twinbrook Parkway, Suite 330  
Rockville, MD 20852

Mr. Glenn H. Archinoff  
5275 Westview Drive  
ACR Suite  
Frederick, MD. 21703-8306

Mr. Gary Wright, Manager  
Office of Nuclear Facility Safety  
Illinois Department of Nuclear Safety  
1035 Outer Park Drive  
Springfield, IL 62704

Mr. Ronald P. Vijuk  
Manager of Passive Plant Engineering  
AP1000 Project  
Westinghouse Electric Company  
P. O. Box 355  
Pittsburgh, PA 15230-0355

Mr. Ed Wallace, General Manager  
Projects  
PBMR Pty LTD  
PO Box 9396  
Centurion 0046  
Republic of South Africa

Mr. Russell Bell  
Nuclear Energy Institute  
Suite 400  
1776 I Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20006-3708